

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 were acted upon in the aforesaid Office Action. No claim has been canceled and no new claims has been added, leaving claims 1 and 2 in the case.

Claim 2 stands allowed and has been amended in very minor respects.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Williamson et al (USP 5,716,370).

Claim 1 has been amended to limit the bridge and first and second leg structure of the claimed apparatus to the bridge being connected at either end thereof to first and second legs, respectively. The first ends of the legs are adapted to pierce heart valve tissue and are separated by a first distance. The bridge is deformable so as to cause the first ends of the legs to each move toward the other so as to thereafter be opposed to each other first end-to-first end with a distance of less than the first distance therebetween.

The apparatus of claim 1 has been further limited to a linking construct having first and second ends and connected proximate the first end thereof to the first plication band and proximate the second end thereof to a second plication band.

Williamson appears to lack a showing or suggestion of having the first ends of the plication bands being opposed to each other, after deformation of the bridge, with a distance of less than the first distance therebetween.

Williamson further appears to lack a showing or suggestion of the linking construct being connected, respectively, to first and second plication bands.

It therefore appears that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Williamson nor suggested nor taught by Williamson. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1, along with claim 2, is most respectfully requested.

In the event that any fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



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